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10/737,300

12/16/2003

Michael Muller

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EXAMINER

PHAM, MICHAEL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/737,300	Applicant(s) MULLER ET AL.	
	Examiner Michael D. Pham	Art Unit 2167	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Detailed Action

1. Claims 1 - 28 have been examined.
2. Claims 1 - 28 are pending.
3. Claims 1 - 28 are rejected as detailed below.

Priority

No foreign or domestic priority claimed. Accordingly the application has been examined with an effective filing date of 12/16/2003.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6462762 by Ku et. al. (hereafter Ku).

Claim 1:

A method for providing a compact interface for display of an object hierarchy having a plurality of levels, comprising:

displaying a first level root node of the object hierarchy[Figure 2, discloses an example by displaying A as a first level root node of the object hierarchy.];

Art Unit: 2167

upon selection of the first level root node, displaying a listing of all second level child nodes of the first level root node immediately adjacent the first level root node [Col. 2 line 54-57, discloses node selection. Col. 2 lines 57-61, once a particular node is selected as the root node, a truncated tree structure is displayed showing the selected node as the root node, the portion of the tree structure not branching from the selected node being omitted from the display. Figures 3-4 upon selection of a node, displays a listing of next level child nodes adjacent to the previous level root node.]; **and**

selecting one of the second level child nodes[col. 2 lines 53-67, once a particular node (i.e. can be a second level child node) is selected as the root node, a truncated tree structure is displayed showing the selected node as the root node, the portion of the tree structure not branching from the selected node being omitted from the display];

wherein, upon selection of one of the second level child nodes, the listing of all second level child nodes of the first level root node disappears, and the selected second level child node is displayed immediately adjacent the first level root node [figure 3-4 disclose upon selection of a node (e.g. F), it displays a listing of next level child nodes adjacent to the previous root node (e.g. h, and i).].

Claim 2:

The method of claim 1, further comprising:

upon selection of the displayed second level child node [figure 6, discloses selecting a second level child node (e.g. C).],

Art Unit: 2167

listing all third level child nodes of the displayed second level child node immediately adjacent the displayed second child node [figure 6, lists third level child nodes of the second level child nodes immediately adjacent the displayed child node (e.g. g and f)]; **and selecting one of the third level child nodes** [figures 4, selecting a third level (e.g. f)]; **wherein, upon selection of one of the third level child nodes** [figure 4, selection of third level child node (e.g. f)], **the window listing all third level child nodes of the displayed second level child node disappears** [e.g. figure 2, we see the window listing all third child nodes of the displayed second child node. Figure 4, we do not see the third level child nodes of the displayed second level child node], **and the selected third level child node is displayed immediately adjacent the displayed second child node** [figures 4, selected third child node displayed adjacent the displayed second child node (e.g. A->C->F)].

Claim 3:

The method of claim 2, further comprising: selectively repeating the above-described steps for at least one subsequent level in the object hierarchy, wherein each selected node is displayed immediately adjacent a selected node from a previous level of the object hierarchy [figure 2 we see A. Figure 6, we see A->C. Figure 4 we see A->C->F. Each of the selected nodes are displayed immediately adjacent a selected node from a previous level of the object hierarchy.].

Claim 4:

Art Unit: 2167

The method of claim 3, wherein the first level root node and any selected nodes are displayed in a linear arrangement, wherein only a single node is displayed for each level of the object hierarchy[figures 2-6 element 22 discloses a first level root node and any selected nodes are displayed in a linear arrangement wherein a single node is displayed for each level of the object hierarchy. (e.g. A->C->F)].

Claim 5:

The method of claim 4, further comprising, upon selection of one of the displayed nodes: displaying a listing of all sibling nodes of the selected displayed node [figure 3, upon selection of F there is a display of g (e.g. a sibling)], **and a listing of all child nodes of the selected displayed node adjacent the selected displayed node** [figures 3&4. upon selection of F there is a display of child nodes of F.].

Claim 6:

The method of claim 4, further comprising, upon selection of one of the displayed nodes: displaying a listing of at least one level of ancestor nodes of the selected displayed node[Figure 3, upon selection of F displays list of at least one level of ancestor nodes of the selected displayed node. (e.g. c, b, and a)], **a listing of all sibling nodes of the selected displayed node, and a listing of all child nodes of the selected displayed node**[figures 3, upon selection of F there is a display of g (e.g. sibling), and a listing of all child nodes of the selected display node (e.g. h and i)].

Claim 7:

The method of claim 4, further comprising, upon selection of one of the displayed nodes: displaying a listing of each level of ancestor nodes of the selected displayed node[Figure 3, upon selection of F displays list of at least one level of ancestor nodes of the selected displayed node. (e.g. c, b, and a)], a listing of all sibling nodes of the selected displayed node[figure 3, upon selection of F there is a display of g (e.g. a sibling)], and a listing of each level of descendant nodes of the selected displayed node[figures 3, upon selection of F there is a display listing of all child nodes of the selected display node (e.g. h and i)].

Claim 8:

The method of claim 1, further comprising: associating at least one of the displayed nodes with a functionality[col. 2 lines 1-9, display nodes are a way to view and navigate through a complex hierarchy of information.]; and upon selection of one of the displayed nodes, executing the functionality associated with the selected node[Col. 7 lines 65-67 to col. 8 lines 1-13, upon selection of display nodes it executes menu options.].

Claim 9:

A system for providing a compact interface for display of an object hierarchy having a plurality of levels, comprising:

Art Unit: 2167

a display system for displaying elements of the compact interface [col. 2 lines 30-45, discloses problem of large displays. Col. 2 lines 53-67 discloses truncating a tree structure display which provides compact interfacing.];

a system for selecting displayed elements of the compact interface [col. 2 lines 53-67, selection of displayed nodes.]; **and**

a system for updating the compact interface based of the elements selected by the selecting system[col. 7 lines 1-13 selecting the use-as-root node command such as by selecting F as shown in Figure 3 causes the currently open window 21 and 22 to be updated or rewritten.];

wherein, upon selection of a displayed first level root node, a listing of all second level child nodes of the first level root node is displayed immediately adjacent the first level root node Col. 2 line 54-57, discloses node selection. Col. 2 lines 57-61, once a particular node is selected as the root node, a truncated tree structure is displayed showing the selected node as the root node, the portion of the tree structure not branching from the selected node being omitted from the display. Figures 3-4 upon selection of a node, displays a listing of next level child nodes adjacent to the previous level root node.], **and wherein, upon selection of one of the second level child nodes, the listing of all second level child nodes of the first level root node is no longer displayed, and the selected second level child node is displayed immediately adjacent the first level root node** [col. 2 lines 53-67, once a particular node (i.e. can be a second level child node) is selected as the root node, a truncated tree structure is displayed showing the

selected node as the root node, the portion of the tree structure not branching from the selected node being omitted from the display. Example, figure 3 and 4, wherein selecting F no longer displays g and in figure 4 element 21 is now A->C->F].

Claim 10:

The system of claim 9, wherein, upon selection of the displayed second level child node[figure 6, discloses selecting a second level child node (e.g. C).], **a listing of all third level child nodes of the second level child node is displayed immediately adjacent the second child node** [figure 6, lists third level child nodes of the second level child nodes immediately adjacent the displayed child node (e.g. g and f)], **and wherein, upon selection of one of the third level child nodes**[figures 4, selecting a third level (e.g. f)], **the window listing all third level child nodes of the second level child node is no longer displayed**[e.g. figure 2, we see the window listing all third child nodes of the displayed second child node. Figure 4, we do not see the third level child nodes of the displayed second level child node], **and the selected third level child node is displayed immediately adjacent the second child node** [figures 4, selected third child node displayed adjacent the displayed second child node (e.g. A->C->F)].

Claim 11:

The system of claim 10, wherein each selected node is displayed immediately adjacent a selected node from a previous level of the object hierarchy [figures 2-6 element 22 displaying selected nodes immediately adjacent a selected node from a previous level of the object

hierarchy. (e.g. A->C->F)].

Claim 12:

The system of claim 11, wherein the first level root node and any selected nodes are displayed in a linear arrangement, wherein only a single node is displayed for each level of the object hierarchy [figures 2-6 element 22 discloses a first level root node and any selected nodes are displayed in a linear arrangement wherein a single node is displayed for each level of the object hierarchy. (e.g. A->C->F)].

Claim 13:

The system of claim 12, wherein, upon selection of one of the displayed nodes, a listing of all sibling nodes of the selected displayed node [figure 3, upon selection of F there is a display of g (e.g. a sibling)] **and a listing of all child nodes of the selected displayed node are displayed adjacent the selected displayed node** [figures 3&4. upon selection of F there is a display of child nodes of F (i.e. h and I)].

Claim 14:

The system of claim 12, wherein, upon selection of one of the displayed nodes, a listing of at least one level of ancestor nodes of the selected displayed node[Figure 3, upon selection of F displays list of at least one level of ancestor nodes of the selected displayed node. (e.g. c, b, and a)], **a listing of all sibling nodes of the selected displayed node, and a listing of all child nodes of the selected displayed node are displayed adjacent the selected displayed node**

[figures 3, upon selection of F there is a display of g (e.g. sibling), and a listing of all child nodes of the selected display node (e.g. h and i)].

Claim 15:

The system of claim 12, wherein, upon selection of one of the displayed nodes, a listing of each level of ancestor nodes of the selected displayed node[Figure 3, upon selection of F displays list of at least one level of ancestor nodes of the selected displayed node. (e.g. c, b, and a)], **a listing of all sibling nodes of the selected displayed node, and a listing of each level of descendant nodes of the selected displayed node are displayed adjacent the selected displayed node** [figures 3, upon selection of F there is a display of g (e.g. sibling), and a listing of all descendant nodes of the selected display node are displayed adjacent the selected displayed node (e.g. h and i)].

Claim 16:

A compact interface for displaying an object hierarchy having a plurality of levels, comprising:

a first level root node of the object hierarchy[Figure 2, discloses an example by displaying A as a first level root node of the object hierarchy.];

a single second level node of the object hierarchy, wherein the second level node is a child of the first level root node[Figure 6, a second level node of an object hierarchy (A->C) where C is the second level node of the object hierarchy.]; and

a single third level node of the object hierarchy, wherein the third level node is a child of the second level node[Figure 4, a third level node of an object hierarchy. (A->C->F) where F is the third level node];

wherein the first level root node, second level node, and third level node are displayed in a linear arrangement, wherein the first level root node and second level node are live, and wherein the third level node is live if it has any child nodes [col. 2 lines 53-67, figures 2-6, figure 7. If the selected node is not different from the current root node then it means that there is no child and therefore it is not live.].

Claim 17:

The compact interface of claim 16, wherein, upon selection of a live node, a listing of all child nodes of the selected live node is displayed adjacent the selected live node [Figure 3 and 4, selecting F causes the child nodes of F to be displayed adjacent to F (i.e. displayed is H and I next to F)].

Claim 18:

The compact interface of claim 16, wherein, upon selection of a live node, a listing of all sibling nodes of the selected live node is displayed [figure 3, selection of F. displayed is still the siblings of F, namely G).], **and a listing of all child nodes of the selected live node is displayed adjacent the listing of all sibling nodes** [Figure 3, upon selection of F the child nodes of F are still displayed adjacent H and I (i.e. adjacent listing of all siblings of F).].

Claim 19:

The compact interface of claim 16, wherein, upon selection of a live node, a listing of sibling nodes of the selected live node is displayed, a listing of all child nodes of the selected live node is displayed adjacent the listing of all sibling nodes [figures 3, upon selection of F there is a display of g (e.g. sibling), and a listing of all child nodes of the selected display node (e.g. h and i)], and a listing of at least one level of ancestor nodes of the selected live node is displayed adjacent the selected live node [Figure 3, upon selection of F displays list of at least one level of ancestor nodes of the selected displayed node. (e.g. c, b, and a)].

Claim 20:

The compact interface of claim 16, wherein, upon selection of a live node, a listing of sibling nodes of the selected live node is displayed, a listing of each level of descendant nodes of the selected live node is displayed on a first side of the listing of sibling nodes [figures 3, upon selection of F there is a display of g (e.g. sibling), and a listing of all child nodes of the selected display node (e.g. h and i)], and a listing of each level of ancestor nodes of the selected live node is displayed on a second side of the selected live node [Figure 3, upon selection of F displays list of at least one level of ancestor nodes of the selected displayed node. (e.g. c, b, and a)].

Claim 21:

A program product stored on a recordable medium for providing a compact interface for display of an object hierarchy having a plurality of levels, which when executed comprises:

program code for displaying a first level root node of the object hierarchy[Figure 2, discloses an example by displaying A as a first level root node of the object hierarchy.];

program code for displaying a listing of all second level child nodes of the first level root node immediately adjacent the first level root node, upon selection of the first level root node[Col. 2 line 54-57, discloses node selection. Col. 2 lines 57-61, once a particular node is selected as the root node, a truncated tree structure is displayed showing the selected node as the root node, the portion of the tree structure not branching from the selected node being omitted from the display. Figures 3-4 upon selection of a node, displays a listing of next level child nodes adjacent to the previous level root node.]; **and**

program code for causing the listing of all second level child nodes of the first level root node to disappear upon selection of one of the second level child nodes, and for displaying the selected second level child node immediately adjacent the first level root node[figure 3-4 disclose upon selection of a node (e.g. F), it displays a listing of next level child nodes adjacent to the previous root node (e.g. h, and i). Or figure 6 wherein selecting the C causes it to display A->C].

Claim 22:

The program product of claim 21, further comprising:

program code for listing all third level child nodes of the displayed second level child node immediately adjacent the displayed second child node[figure 6, lists third level child nodes of the second level child nodes immediately adjacent the displayed child node (e.g. g and f)], **upon**

Art Unit: 2167

selection of the displayed second level child node [figure 6, discloses selecting a second level child node (e.g. C).]; and

program code for causing the window listing all third level child nodes of the displayed second level child node to disappear[e.g. figure 2, we see the window listing all third child nodes of the displayed second child node. Figure 4, we do not see the third level child nodes of the displayed second level child node], **upon selection of one of the third level child nodes**[figure 4, selection of third level child node (e.g. f)], **and for displaying the selected third level child node immediately adjacent the displayed second child node** [figures 4, selected third child node displayed adjacent the displayed second child node (e.g. A->C->F)].

Claim 23:

The program product of claim 22, further comprising: program code for selectively repeating the above-described steps for at least one subsequent level in the object hierarchy, wherein each selected node is displayed immediately adjacent a selected node from a previous level of the object hierarchy [figure 2 we see A. Figure 6, we see A->C. Figure 4 we see A->C->F. Each of the selected nodes are displayed immediately adjacent a selected node from a previous level of the object hierarchy.].

Claim 24:

The program product of claim 23, wherein the first level root node and any selected nodes are displayed in a linear arrangement, wherein only a single node is displayed for each level

Art Unit: 2167

of the object hierarchy [figures 2-6 element 22 discloses a first level root node and any selected nodes are displayed in a linear arrangement wherein a single node is displayed for each level of the object hierarchy. (e.g. A->C->F)].

Claim 25:

The program product of claim 24, further comprising, upon selection of one of the displayed nodes:

program code for displaying a listing of all sibling nodes of the selected displayed node[figure 3, upon selection of F there is a display of g (e.g. a sibling)], **and a listing of all child nodes of the selected displayed node adjacent the selected displayed node** [figures 3&4. upon selection of F there is a display of child nodes of F.].

Claim 26:

The program product of claim 24, further comprising, upon selection of one of the displayed nodes:

program code for displaying a listing of at least one level of ancestor nodes of the selected displayed node[Figure 3, upon selection of F displays list of at least one level of ancestor nodes of the selected displayed node. (e.g. c, b, and a)], **a listing of all sibling nodes of the selected displayed node, and a listing of all child nodes of the selected displayed node** [figures 3, upon selection of F there is a display of g (e.g. sibling), and a listing of all child nodes of the

selected display node (e.g. h and i)].

Claim 27:

The program product of claim 24, further comprising, upon selection of one of the displayed nodes:

program code for displaying a listing of each level of ancestor nodes of the selected displayed node[Figure 3, upon selection of F displays list of at least one level of ancestor nodes of the selected displayed node. (e.g. c, b, and a)], **a listing of all sibling nodes of the selected displayed node**[figure 3, upon selection of F there is a display of g (e.g. a sibling)], **and a listing of each level of descendant nodes of the selected displayed node** [figures 3, upon selection of F there is a display listing of all child nodes of the selected display node (e.g. h and i)].

Claim 28:

The program product of claim 21, further comprising:

program code for associating at least one of the displayed nodes with a functionality[col. 2 lines 1-9, display nodes are a way to view and navigate through a complex hierarchy of information.]; **and**

program code for executing the functionality associated with the selected node, upon selection of one of the displayed nodes [Col. 7 lines 65-67 to col. 8 lines 1-13, upon selection of display nodes it executes menu options.].

Conclusion

The prior art made of record listed on PTO-892 and not relied, if any,

upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

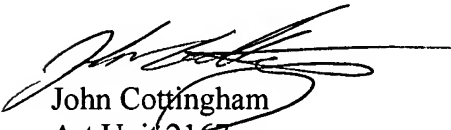
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael D. Pham whose telephone number is (571)272-3924. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cottingham can be reached on 571-272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Application/Control Number: 10/737,300

Art Unit: 2167

Page 18